

PREVENTING STORMWATER RUNOFF POLLUTION

Rainfall runoff can carry soil, pesticides, chemicals, metals and other residues of everyday human activity into the water. Without proper management and wise land use practices, dirt, trash and toxins in stormwater runoff can produce more water pollution than sewage and industrial plants.

Clean water starts with you. You play a vital role in protecting the water resources, habitat and recreational opportunities of the Highland Lakes and the Colorado River and its tributaries.

These pollutants can cause unhealthy water for pets, aquatic life and humans:

- Fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides used for lawn care
- Pet waste
- Litter and trash



TAKE THESE STEPS TO REDUCE YOUR POLLUTION FOOTPRINT

- **Always pick up after your pet!**
- **Plant native Central Texas plants and grasses** to help control soil erosion and stabilize erosion-prone areas. Native grasses and plants require less water and minimal need for fertilizers or pesticides. Native plants form well-established root systems that naturally filter pollutants and reduce stormwater runoff by allowing rain to saturate deeper into the soil.
- **See Texas AgriLife Extension and City of Austin's [Grow Green guide](#)** for more information on native plants.



- **Use locally sourced, certified organic soil and compost or other organic toxin-free products instead of pesticides and fertilizers.** If you must apply pesticides or fertilizers, check the local weather forecast prior to application. Never apply pesticides, fertilizers or herbicides within 36 hours before or after any precipitation. Apply chemicals sparingly in accordance with label directions. Avoid over watering your lawn after application.



- **Never throw grass clippings into waterways, streets or storm drain inlets.** Responsibly rake and bag your lawn clippings and dispose of them properly or create your own compost.



- **Locate a recycling center to dispose of used motor oil, antifreeze, paints and other household hazardous materials properly.** Never put household hazardous waste in sinks, toilets, yards, storm drains or waterways.



- **Maintain creek side vegetative buffer zones.** Never remove vegetation near creeks or drainage areas. Plants and grasses hold the soil of the bank in place, filter out pollutants, provide habitat and slow down stormwater runoff to help reduce flooding.

